

## Mint of the United States at Philadelphia, Pa.,

COINER'S DEPARTMENT,

Nov 25<sup>th</sup> 1887

Hon Daniel M. Fox,  
Superintendent,  
Sir.

In reference to the sixteen broken and defective 5¢ Nickel pieces, from the First National Bank of Houston Texas, returned to you by the Director of the Mint, I have the honor to state, that they never left the Mint in the condition in which they have been returned to you. All minor coins pass under the vigilant eye of the Counter when spread out one deep on the Counting boards before being bagged, and while it is possible that surface defects may sometimes escape detection in the rush of business



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1888

caused by the enormous pressure upon the Mint. it is simply impossible that broken coins should not be noticed, and find their way into the bags. The metal of these pieces seems to be very brittle, and this may doubtless owing to the blanks being overheated in annealing before they were delivered to the Mint. The responsibility for this of course rests upon the Contractor who furnished them. I herewith hand you sixteen perfect nickels to replace the broken ones returned to you.

Very Respectfully -

Your Obedient Servant,  
H. S. Steel

Coiner.

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 149

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia, Pa.,  
Coiner's Department,

Philadelphia, Pa  
November 25, 1887

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